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Wicker Park gets yummier **22**

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Thursday
OCTOBER 3, 2013

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A Chicago Tribune publication



CLAWS OUT!

IT'S NORTHWESTERN'S
BIGGEST GAME IN YEARS—
ARE THE WILDCATS UP
TO THE CHALLENGE?
PAGES 14-15

EAT**LUNCH SPECIAL**
Flour & Stone

355 E. Ohio St. 312-822-8998

The Streeterville spot offers a noontime combo featuring a salad and a 13-inch single-topping Brooklyn-style pizza similar to a crispy-crust Neapolitan pie, which you can split with a pal or keep to yourself if you're not into sharing. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$16.

**DRINK****BRIDETOBERFEST****Dank Haus** 4740 N. Western Ave. 773-793-1035

The Chicago Green Wedding Alliance and Barley's Angels, a female brew connoisseur group, sponsor this bash for brides and grooms, which features five tastings of local brews, a commemorative glass, raffles, green wedding experts, live music by Stephanie Rogers and her band and additional beer and food for purchase. 6-10 p.m. \$15. Tickets: bridetoberfest.brownpaper-tickets.com.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Follow @redeyeatdrink on Twitter for restaurant and bar news and information—plus the occasional silly Vine.

**DO****INSOMNIAC OLYMPICS****The Bakery**

2150 S. Canalport Ave.

Local fashion designer and artist Hogan McLaughlin—whose clients include Lady Gaga and fashion icon Daphne Guinness—hosts an exhibition of his fashion and visual art with a silent auction and pieces for sale. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago dancer Jessica Tong and choreographer Robyn Mineko Williams co-host the soiree in a skate park owned by professional BMX rider Brian Kachinsky. 7-10 p.m. Donations accepted. Details: hoganmclaughlin.com.

POP-UP ART LOOP GALLERY WALK**Various locations**

FREE Take a self-guided tour of nine traditional and non-traditional spaces in the Loop during the season finale event featuring local artists, complimentary beverages and both walk-through and walk-by venues. 5-8 p.m. Participating artists and venues: popupartloop.com.

NEW YORK NIGHT TRAIN SOUL CLAP & DANCE-OFF**Empty Bottle**1035 N. Western Ave.
773-276-3600

As part of The Brooklyn Brewery Mash event series, a guest selector chooses contestants who vie for judges' votes, \$100 and a trip to the Dance-Off championships at Brooklyn Bowl. 10 p.m. \$8. Details and additional events: brooklynbrewerymash.com.



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House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (left) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid address the media Wednesday after a meeting with President Obama. GETTY IMAGES

STILL NOTHING

Tribune news services

WASHINGTON President Obama and congressional leaders wrapped up a 90-minute meeting at the White House on Wednesday with no signs of a deal that would end the government shutdown.

House Speaker John Boehner emerged first and said the president was not willing to negotiate.

"The president reiterated one more time tonight that he will not negotiate," Boehner said in a brief statement to media assembled outside the White House.

Boehner again pushed his offer to appoint conferees from both parties to discuss the bill. He took no questions.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he told the speaker that Democrats would go to conference once the government is reopened.

"We're through playing these little games all focused on Obamacare. That's all it's

about," Reid said.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said Republicans had avoided going to conference for six months on the budget.

Pelosi said Republicans only want to delay Obamacare—and "that's not going to happen."

In a CNBC interview, Obama described himself as exasperated that Republicans refused to drop demands that led to the government shutting down Tuesday.

"Am I exasperated? Absolutely I'm exasperated," he said, because the shutdown was totally unnecessary.

Wall Street ought to be worried about the political climate in the capital and the potential for the federal government to default, Obama said Wednesday.

Stalemate between him and Republicans in Congress is nothing new, Obama said, but he also said that "this time's different." Wall

NEXT UP

The shutdown fight is rapidly merging with a higher-stakes battle over the government's borrowing power that is expected to come to a head soon. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has said the United States will exhaust its borrowing authority no later than Oct. 17. The government could have difficulty paying pension checks, interest charges and other bills after that point. Many Republicans see the debt limit vote as another opportunity to undercut Obama's health care law or extract other concessions—an approach that business groups say could lead to disaster.

Street, he said, "should be concerned."

"When you have a situation in which a faction is willing potentially to default on U.S. obligations, then we are in trouble," Obama told CNBC's John Harwood in an exclusive interview.

The comments came as Obama prepared for the first face-to-face meeting with congressional leaders since the government went into shutdown Tuesday.

In the CNBC interview, Obama said he is

frustrated with Republicans.

"During the course of my presidency, I have bent over backwards to work with the Republican Party," he said. "And have purposely kept my rhetoric down. I think I'm pretty well known for being a calm guy."

Obama scaled back a long-planned trip to Asia on Wednesday and planned a meeting with Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress that both sides said was unlikely to yield an end to the government shutdown.

Get to know the Latinos



Hector Luis Alamo Jr.

» redeye@tribune.com
» [@hestorluisalamo](https://twitter.com/hestorluisalamo)

Is it just me, or are Latinos everywhere these days? Kidding! Kidding! Still, we're not very well-understood as a group. So in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, here is my list of 10 things every non-Latino should know about Latinos.

Latinos are the fastest-growing minority group in the country.

It's crazy how true this is. Latinos made up half of the nation's growth in the first decade of the new millennium. I guess it's good that Latinos get a whole month to themselves then.

Not all Latinos are Mexican. Shocking, right? The way some in the media talk, you'd think every Latino climbed or swam his or her way here from Juarez. But Mexicans make up only 63 percent of the Latino population. So if you guess someone's Mexican, you'll be right more times than not. Just don't forget about the other 37 percent of Latinos who aren't Mexican (like me).

Most Latinos don't consider Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) to be Latino. His name sounds Latino, but don't be fooled. Check out [#TedCruzIsASLatinoAs](#).

Some Latinos suck at Spanish. Myself included. Spanish technically is my first language and I can understand it almost perfectly, but when I try to form my own sentences—especially in conversation—I sound like Forrest Gump. (Side note: If a Latino talks to you in English, you should respond in English.)

Lincoln Park used to be the Puerto Rican neighborhood. I know. Weird, huh?

“ People are always trying to define Latinos. Truth be told, even we're not sure what we are.

Latinos are iffy on President Obama. This goes for Latinos on both sides of the fence (no pun intended). Conservatives rail against the president because he hates freedom, and liberals hate him because he deports people like it's in style. Plus, for all the talk about Latino political power, less than 50 percent of Latinos vote. But a record 75 percent of those who voted last year chose to re-elect Obama, so go figure.

Every Latino knows at least one good ghost story. It's just our thing. I'm an atheist, but even I could tell you a few stories that'll make you pale than ... well, a ghost. Latino culture is generally superstitious, and most Latinos grow up believing that the supernatural is a part of everyday life. It's not a matter of if ghosts and ghouls exist, but when one's gonna pop out on you. Add the fact that Latinos like to talk, and you get stories that'll make Stephen King check underneath the bed.

Latinos aren't a race or an ethnicity. People are always trying to define Latinos. Truth be told, even we're not sure what we are. All we know for sure is that being Latino has something to do with the countries south of the United States, Columbus, Europe, Africa, indigenous peoples and coffee. The rest is splitting hairs.

Mexican and Puerto Rican aren't languages. But they should be. As a Honduran, I hardly catch anything my Mexican wife and her family members say. The only person I understand perfectly is my Honduran grandma. Everybody else needs to learn how to enunciate.

Latinos make up 29 percent of Chicago's population. That's way above the national rate of 16 percent. So Latinos are especially everywhere in Chicago. But it's nothing like Miami or San Antonio, which are in the 60s.

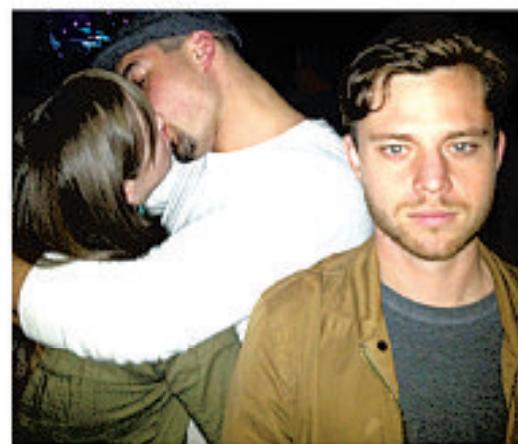
Hope this helps. Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

HECTOR LUIS ALAMO JR. IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



TUMBLR THURSDAY

You know the drill by now—if you're not following these Tumblr already, you should be. Have a suggestion for a Tumblr to feature? Send a tweet to [@jessicagallart](#). —JESSICA GALLART, REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA LADY



Wing-Manning
[wing-manning.tumblr.com](#)

I hated Tebowing. Hated Te'ing even more. But Wing-Manning? [Bleep]ing perfect.

The next time you're making out with your sweetie (or a stranger) in public, take a look around to see if this guy is standing nearby. I would recommend giving a thumbs up.

WING-MANNING TUMBLR PHOTO



Critique My [Bleep] Pic [critiquemy\[bleep\]pic.tumblr.com](#)
Sounds like "chick." This Tumblr really invites men to send along selfies of ... themselves ... to be critiqued and published on the Internet. Before you start typing up that angry email, hear me out.

If you can stomach the impossibly bad photos of genitals, the actual written critiques of them are well worth the click—that could get you fired. (To be safe, do it on your phone, eh?) Here's one such excerpt:

“ You have literally done nothing more than line your [bleep] up alongside an inanimate piece of trash in order to compare the two. I want you to have more respect for your [bleep], & [sic] I want you to have more respect for the recipients of your [bleep] pics.”



Free Diner Porn
[freedinerporn.com](#)

If I ever quit my job, you can probably find me hanging out in a diner for at least 10 hours a day. These images represent much of what you would see if you did that—and, I would argue, the reason you would do such a thing.

FREE DINER PORN TUMBLR PHOTO



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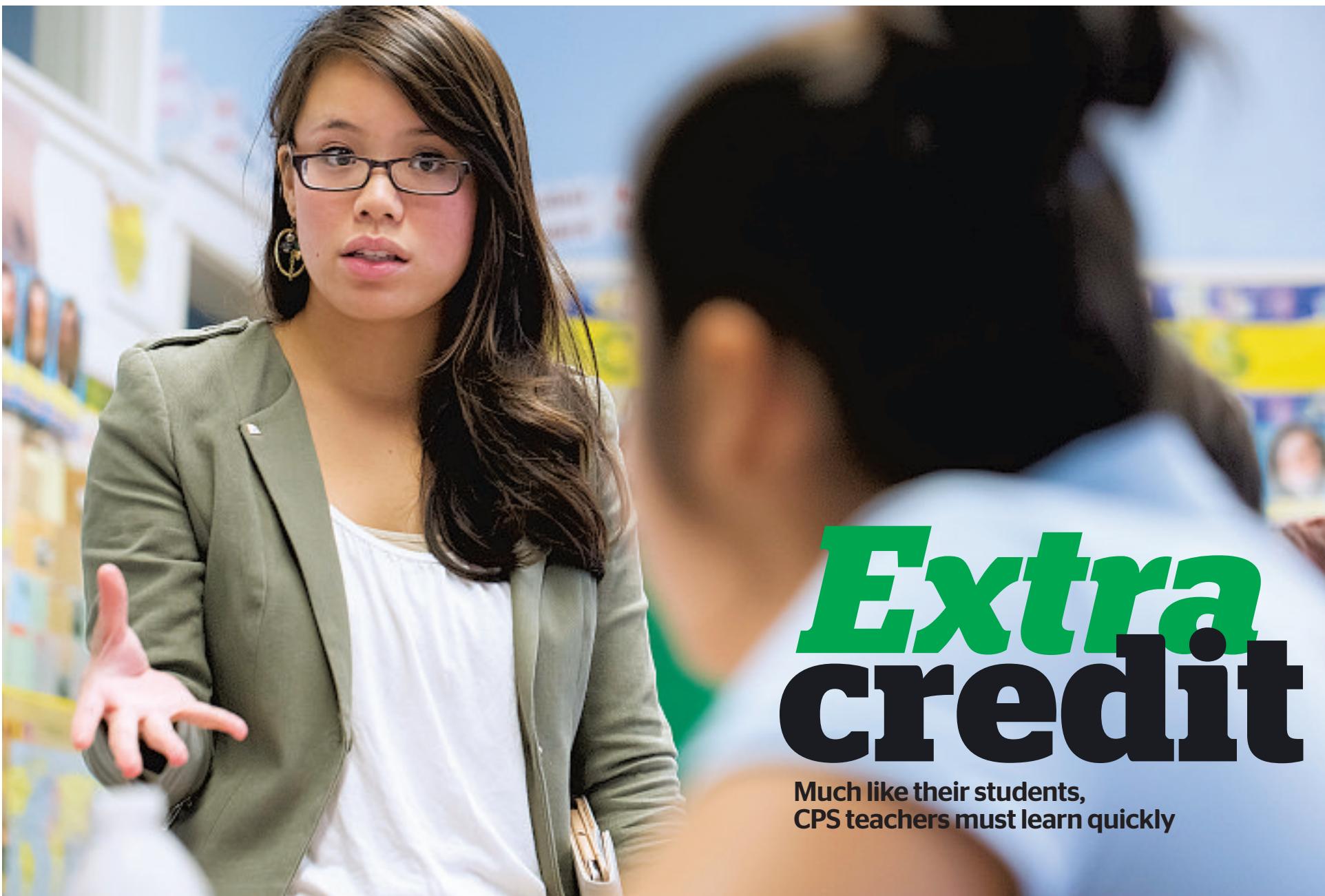


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Extra credit

**Much like their students,
CPS teachers must learn quickly**

Special ed teacher Christine Cuartero teaches an eighth-grade language arts inclusion class at North River Elementary in Albany Park. LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS

By Mick Swasko | REDEYE

About 35 seventh-grade students stared at Christine Cuartero on her very first day of school. She had expected questions from the class at Philip D. Armour Elementary in Bridgeport—just not the ones she got.

“Where do you live? ‘Who are you dating?’ ‘How old are you?’ ‘What are you doing with your life?’” she recalled the students asking. “Almost like, ‘What are you doing here?’”

“You kind of come in with that bright-eyed, bushy-tailed feeling, like this is it, this is what I’ve been working toward [since college and student teaching], this is where I need to be. But then those questions come and that’s when the nerves start. Why are they questioning me?”

As the 24-year-old Lakeview resident goes into her second full year of teaching, at North

River Elementary in Albany Park, she’s now able to answer her students about why she chose a teaching career. But it didn’t come without struggle the first year.

The question of “why” weighs on many young Chicago Public Schools teachers beginning their careers now. Last year, the Chicago Teachers Union went on strike for a week and a half. The district recently closed 49 schools, and more than 1,000 teachers lost their jobs amid budget woes.

The constant headlines about the district’s struggles and the mounting pressure for students to perform well on increased testing are all Chicago’s freshman teachers have ever known. Last year, CPS welcomed about 1,500 new teachers, and many whom RedEye spoke to said they find the job personally and professionally rewarding.

This year’s crop of freshman teachers is learning to block out the noise and focus on their students—something they learn quickly, though not always easily. Those just one or two years removed from their first time leading a classroom say in the critical first year, there’s no lesson plan for the education of a new CPS teacher: They just have to learn fast.

“By providing a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career and life, teachers can have a transformative impact on their students’ lives, closing the achievement gap and positively influencing the trajectory of their futures,” CPS CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett said in a statement responding to RedEye’s request for comment on new teachers. “Our goal as a district is to support and empower our teachers on this journey.”

An entry-level educator with a bachelor’s

degree makes about \$49,600 in the first year. First-year salaries can go up to about \$56,500 based on education level, according to the newest Chicago Teacher’s Union contract.

Dan Zummo, 23, of West Town, is entering his second year of teaching.

“They may be reading at a [lower level], but in terms of social understanding, my students are brilliant,” said Zummo, a math teacher at Fenger Academy High School in Roseland.

Zummo said he’s learned a lot. Though his education at Illinois State University focused on urban teaching—as did his student teaching and mentorship experience—he said nothing can prepare a young teacher for his or her first real day in the classroom.

In his first year, he typically arrived at school around 7 a.m. and stayed hours after the final bell to plan lessons. When he left at

“

You're so many people for these kids; you're not just a teacher.”

—Christine Cuartero



6:30 or 7 p.m. each night, he always found the parking lot still full. For any first-year teacher, he said, particulars like transitions between activities, getting the class to pay attention, grading and getting paperwork to his superiors all are details that have to be carefully thought out.

“Teaching takes so much energy and time,” he said. “It’s insane. It’s not necessarily hard work; it’s the small things.”

The work doesn’t end in the classroom. Katy Spencer, 24, of Palatine, is in her second year of teaching at Carl Schurz High School in Old Irving Park. She said she spends her three planning periods per day talking to students who come to spend their lunchtimes with her. Much of the time, class work isn’t the topic of discussion.

“There’s no stability at home whatsoever,” she said of conversations she’s had with some students. One student’s stepparent is in jail; another has a mother who is on drugs; some have problems with their significant others.

“Mostly it’s just listening. I don’t have the answers,” she said.

She said that many times, she is the only constant pillar of support in a student’s life. During her first year at Wells Community Academy High School in West Town, she had to learn not to get too emotionally involved. She used to go home and break down over some of the things she heard from her students.

She still struggles, but she said listening to her students has become the most fulfilling part of her day.

“When students come in and talk to me and trust me with things in their lives, that’s

the most rewarding part of my job,” she said.

Teachers provide more than just emotional support. Spencer said amid budget cuts, the \$250 she receives from the Chicago Teachers Union for classroom supplies isn’t going nearly as far as it did even last year.

“Teachers spend a lot of money on stuff for their classroom,” she said. “Their own money.”

Just weeks into the school year, she’s approaching \$250 on supplies, including paper, notebooks, markers and glue she uses for geometry lessons. On average, she estimates, she’ll spend about \$40 a month in extra items for her classroom. She shells out an additional \$25 a month on snacks to share with the students she mentors. She said she feels pressure to keep things tight, but opening her wallet is the only way to make her classroom the way she thinks it should be. Rather than complain, she said she’s come to enjoy her shopping trips.

“I feel like it’s kind of implied that we’re kind of supposed to use the minimal amount,” she said. “In my class, I don’t want the minimal amount.”

Cuartero said she still hears the “why are you here” questions from students. As she begins the new school year, she said she’s finding the answers.

“Knowing that some kid anywhere has something missing, that can break them from wherever they are going,” she said. “That’s why I am there. To be that piece that’s strong for them, that they can rely on. You’re so many people for these kids; you’re not just a teacher.”

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the **ORIGINALS**

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National Transportation Safety Board investigators and CTA officials are trying to determine the cause of a strange Blue Line crash in Forest Park on Monday. **CHUCK BERMAN/TRIBUNE**

NTSB taking close look at Blue Line accident

Chicago Tribune

Federal railroad experts investigating this week's Blue Line crash said Wednesday their early findings have led them to consider emergency recommendations to the CTA, a move that would signal concerns of a future accident.

Investigators didn't elaborate on those findings or what any recommendations could entail, but that consideration came even as the CTA reopened the Harlem station, where the accident occurred, and normal service along the Blue Line resumed Wednesday. The four rail cars and the eight-car Blue Line train it hit were towed, one car at a time, Tuesday night to a CTA facility for examination and testing, officials said.

Officials from the National Transportation Safety Board, which is leading the inquiry into Monday's accident involving an apparently empty and out-of-service train, were collect-

LAWSUIT FILED

More than 30 riders on the in-service train suffered minor injuries, and the first lawsuit stemming from the accident was filed against the CTA on Wednesday in Cook County Circuit Court. The suit alleges that the CTA "carelessly and negligently" operated the trains in the collision. "This accident calls out to the citizens of Chicago and the visitors to our city who rely upon the CTA to provide a safe transit to their destinations," attorney Robert Smoler said on behalf of his client, Kim Quach, who was identified as a passenger on the struck train.

ing what they called "perishable evidence" at the crash site Wednesday and expect to finish on-scene work by Saturday. The agency's overall investigation is expected to take a year and result in a report on the crash's probable cause.

EXPRESS LINES

» "Transformers: Age of Extinction" returned to the abandoned Santa Fe Grain Elevators in Pilsen on Wednesday to—what else?—set off an explosion.

» The Illinois Department of Transportation has approved 11 locations for 100-foot-tall digital billboards after months of wrangling over one of Mayor Emanuel's signature money-makers.

» The production company founded by Oprah Winfrey has hired a real estate firm to evaluate options for its West Side facility, a company spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday. **TRIBUNE**

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chicago

Homicides
from Sept. 25
to 5 p.m. Wednesday.

HOMICIDE TRACKER

By Tracy Swartz

TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM | @TRACYSWARTZ

CHICAGO VIOLENCE

ONE CITY UNDER THE GUN

South Shore saw two homicides in the past week, according to a RedEye analysis of preliminary police data.

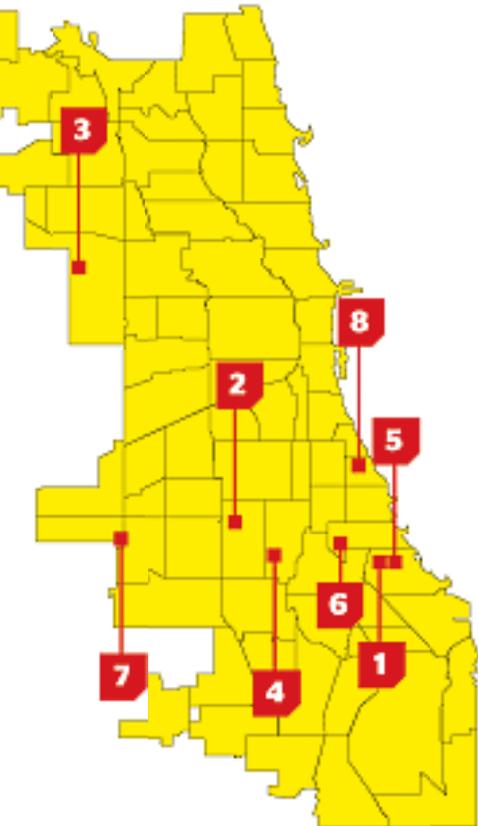
On Saturday, a 9-month-old boy who lived in the 7100 block of South Bennett Avenue was admitted to the hospital with injuries believed to be from child abuse, police said. He later died.

Two days earlier, a 17-year-old boy was shot to death in the 7000 block of South Stony Island Avenue, according to officials.

South Shore has logged 23 homicides so far this year. The South Side community area recorded 20 homicides last year, RedEye determined.

In the past week, gunshot homicides were logged in Englewood, Kenwood and Woodlawn, according to police information.

Meanwhile, there were two stabbing deaths in the past week. An 18-year-old man was stabbed to death Monday in the 6500 block of South Kilpatrick Avenue, and a 45-year-old woman was fatally stabbed Friday in the 1100



block of North Mayfield Avenue in Austin.

On Sept. 25, a 4-month-old boy was beaten to death in the 6000 block of South Honore Street in West Englewood, officials said.

September ended this week with 41 homicides, down from 44 homicides in September 2012, RedEye determined.

One homicide has been recorded so far this month. Forty-one homicides were logged in October 2012, according to RedEye data.

1 7000 BLOCK OF S. STONY ISLAND AVE.
Date: Sept. 26 Cause: Gunshot

2 6000 BLOCK OF S. HONORE ST.
Date: Sept. 26 Cause: Child abuse

3 1100 BLOCK OF N. MAYFIELD AVE.
Date: Sept. 27 Cause: Stabbing

4 900 BLOCK OF W. 70TH ST.
Date: Sept. 28 Cause: Gunshot

5 7100 BLOCK OF S. BENNETT AVE.
Date: Sept. 28 Cause: Child abuse

6 600 BLOCK OF E. 62ND ST.
Date: Sept. 30 Cause: Gunshot

7 6500 BLOCK OF S. KILPATRICK AVE.
Date: Sept. 30 Cause: Stabbing

8 4500 BLOCK OF S. WOODLAWN AVE.
Date: Oct. 2 Cause: Gunshot

MORE ONLINE Check out RedEye's interactive homicide map at redeyechicago.com/homicides, which now includes information on every homicide in Chicago since Jan. 1, 2007.

3 hurt in hit-and-runs

A 17-year-old girl was critically injured Tuesday when she was struck by a pickup truck in Logan Square—one of three pedestrians injured in hit-and-run accidents in eight hours, authorities said. In other accidents, a man in his 30s was struck in the 5100 block of Fullerton Avenue and a pedestrian was struck in the 5500 block of West North Avenue.

3 teens shot in Jeffery Manor

Three teenagers were seriously wounded Tuesday when shots rang out during a basketball game in Jeffery Manor. The shooting happened shortly before 9 p.m. as the three were playing basketball inside Merrill Park in the 2100 block of East 97th Street, police said.

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UPTOWN 5300 N. Broadway (Broadway Festival Shopping Center)
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BOLINGBROOK 1249 W. Boughton Plaza (Next to Dunkin' Donuts)

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NAPERVILLE 376 S. Route 59 (Westridge Court, in front of Petco)
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Mia Farrow
GETTY IMAGES

Is Sinatra the father of Mia Farrow's son?

1 Singer Frank Sinatra was the great love of actress Mia Farrow's life and could "possibly" be the father of her son Ronan Farrow, the actress said in an interview published Wednesday.

Feds shutter online drug marketplace

2 U.S. law enforcement authorities have shut down "Silk Road," an anonymous Internet marketplace for illegal drugs like heroin and cocaine and criminal activities such as murder for hire, and arrested its alleged owner.

Request for new Sandusky trial denied

3 Jerry Sandusky, the former assistant football coach at Penn State who was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison for sexually molesting boys, will not get a new trial, an appellate panel in Pennsylvania ruled Wednesday.

Tom Clancy dies after illness at age 66

4 Tom Clancy, the Baltimore-born author whose novels "The Hunt for Red October" and "Patriot Games" subsequently inspired blockbuster movies and action-packed video games, died Tuesday after a brief illness at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Jury: Promoter isn't liable for MJ's death

5 In a huge victory for concert promoter AEG Live, the jury in the Michael Jackson wrongful-death case in L.A. found that Dr. Conrad Murray was not unfit and awarded no money to the pop star's family.

Memo: Evidence smashed

6 Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who is charged with carrying out the bombings at the Boston Marathon in April, disposed of key evidence after the attack by "discarding a remaining bomb detonator and smashing his cellphones," according to an internal memo approved by Attorney General Eric Holder made public Wednesday.

The memo, written in August to the director of the Bureau of Prisons to justify the imposition of harsh detention restrictions on Tsarnaev, also said that he and his brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, "made additional bombs" after the lethal blasts and persuaded others to "attempt to destroy evidence related to the attack."

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev also told FBI agents

upon his arrest that he remained "committed to jihad and expressed hope that his actions would inspire others to engage in violent jihad," according to the memo from Holder.

Holder's memo said the Tsarnaev brothers were directly "inspired" to detonate the two bombs during the marathon by radicalized American citizen Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in September 2011, and that they "used bomb-making instructions from 'Inspire,' an al-Qaida publication" printed in English.

The attorney general's memo said the conspiracy was so elaborate that Dzhokhar "employed operational tradecraft" and "purchased a dedicated cellphone" to secretly communi-

cate with his older brother about the upcoming bombings. Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed in a shootout with police several days after the April 15 bombings in Boston, which killed three people and injured dozens.

The memo was dated Aug. 27 and sent to Charles E. Samuels Jr., director of the federal Bureau of Prisons.

Tsarnaev, who has pleaded not guilty, is being held at the prison medical center in Ayer, Mass. Holder used his authority as the top federal law enforcement official to impose strict detention measures to prevent Tsarnaev, a 20-year-old Chechen immigrant, from communicating with anyone outside the prison before his trial in U.S. District Court in Boston.



7 A street performer stands in protest against government corruption in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday. Brazil has seen large street protests directed toward the country's ruling elite since last June. GETTY IMAGES





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HOLD SCHOOL

BRANDON WILLIAMS DOESN'T WAIT AROUND FOR MAJOR AWARDS— HE CREATES THEM

By Matt Lindner | FOR REDEYE

He'll never be a Heisman Trophy finalist, but that doesn't matter one bit to Northwestern's Brandon Williams.

Rather, the longtime Wildcats holder has his eye on an even more coveted award, one so prestigious that it exists only in his imagination. For now.

"I don't even need to win the thing," he said. "I just want to be on a watch list."

Williams announced his "candidacy" for the Holder of the Year, an award that doesn't exist, via the Ryan Field scoreboard during the season opener.

Of course, Williams and his teammates are focused on winning the Big Ten. The Wildcats kick off the conference schedule with Saturday's prime-time matchup against Ohio State.

The Holder of the Year idea was born when Williams was joking around with the team's media relations representatives about ways he could get his name in the headlines.

"One day I asked them, 'What do you think about a Holder of the Year award?' There's no such thing, there's no award for that, there's awards for everything else," Williams said, laughing. "They're like, 'C'mon, you've gotta be kidding me.' And I was like, 'Hey, it could happen.' "

MORE ONLINE

» How does one become Holder of the Year material? It takes an unusual training regimen, which NU's Brandon Williams demonstrates at redeyechicago.com.



GET A GRIP

Field goal attempts may look simple when you're watching a game, but Northwestern's specialists say there's much more than meets the eye.

That goes double if the weather isn't cooperating.

"If it's raining, it's terrible," holder Brandon Williams said. "Cold hands is probably the other worst thing. My redshirt freshman year, I dropped a hold in the bowl game because my hands were just cold."

Williams and his teammates broke down the formula for the perfect attempt. **MU**

Daydreaming aside, the redshirt senior, who is also the Wildcats' punter, actually has the numbers to back it up were such an award given out.

This year, under Williams' hold, kicker Jeff Budzien is 6-of-8 on field goals and 21-for-21 on extra points. In three years together, the pair has converted all their extra-point attempts. Williams also has gone 38 consecutive field goal attempts without a botched hold.

"If you watch what goes wrong [on a missed kick], it's [usually] either blocked or an errant snap or hold, so to have 122 straight as well as 38 field goals consecutively without an error is pretty impressive and a credit to [Williams and long snapper Pat Hickey]," Budzien said. "The extra-point process, a lot of people will talk about me regarding that, but that's completely not my doing. That's all consistency with them."

It's success derived from a fear of being unable to get on the field. Williams, who was a kicker in high school in Napanee, Ind., took up holding his freshman year at Northwestern because he simply wanted to play.

"My redshirt freshman year, I was like, 'Huh, I don't know if I'm gonna punt next year so I'm gonna try and get on the field,'" he said. "Maybe I can hold." It actually turned out to be a lot of fun."

Jeff Budzien
(from left),
Brandon Williams
and Patrick Hickey
LENNY GILMORE/
REDEYE PHOTOS



STEP 1

THE SNAP Long snapper Pat Hickey

"I try to aim [the snap] between [holder Brandon Williams'] knee and the middle of his body. You don't want to keep it outside because that can affect the kick, so [I'm] just trying to make sure everything's really smooth and fluid in the process and getting the ball where it needs to be so [kicker] Jeff Budzien won't have to hesitate."



STEP 2

THE HOLD Holder Brandon Williams

"We've got to the point where I almost always catch it with the laces already out so I don't have to spin it very much, which is huge because obviously that's the hardest part. Then really, my left hand already marked the spot, my knee is in a position that my elbow just goes to my knee, my hand just goes to the spot and just make[s] sure the laces are spun perfectly out and the ball is tilted perfect. Jeff has told me what he wants."



STEP 3

THE KICK Kicker Jeff Budzien

"Clearly, when the laces are out, it's a little easier to see and make good contact. I'd prefer when it's already vertically up to tilt a little bit to Brandon, maybe like 5 or 10 degrees, and that just lets my foot angle and the ball make a 90-degree angle, which makes it go straighter. It's just a little thing that Brandon's picked up."

BATTLE OF UNBEATENS

No. 16 Northwestern (4-0) vs. No. 4 Ohio State (5-0)

7 p.m. Saturday ABC

It may sound simple, but Williams' ability to catch a football and put it down just so is the stuff of legend among his teammates. Hickey said Williams has gotten so good at holding that he could do it one-handed.

"We've talked about it," Williams said.

"If we're up big on some team late in the game," Hickey interjected.

"But we would never do it," Williams added. "I would never try that."

Part of that is out of fear of their coach, Pat Fitzgerald.

"If it went well, he'd still probably yell at us," Williams said.

"Do you think he'd notice?" Hickey wondered aloud. "We'd have to do it when we're on the south end zone so he couldn't see the front."

"Then it'd probably be all right," he said. "When he watched the film, he'd probably ask about it; he wouldn't be very happy."

While there are other, more well-

known holders out there, including Alabama quarterback A.J. McCarron, Hickey and Budzien say Williams deserves the Holder of the Year award because of his ability to make their jobs easier.

"Brandon's done a great job and made me look good a couple of times, saving my butt," Hickey said. "Finesse at the holder position, all the consistency that he's had."

"Brandon is pretty athletic," Budzien added. "He can make something happen if it's bad. And he created [the award], so I don't think someone else deserves to get it if Brandon created it and is worthy of it."

Williams himself stated his case based on the fact that he is purely a holder.

"Obviously here, we don't run that many fakes," he said. "I like to think it's not a reflection on me, but possibly it is. I'm definitely not A.J. McCarron or a wide receiver."

But even if the powers that be decide to offer a Holder of the Year honor and deem Williams unworthy, he has one request for the awards committee that, again, doesn't exist.

"Honestly, the Holder of the Year award, I would be totally fine if I didn't win it, I just want to present it," he said.

MATT LINDNER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

GOING BUCK(EYE) WILD

On Saturday, Northwestern hosts Ohio State in a showdown of Big Ten unbeatens. This game is so huge, ESPN's "College GameDay" is broadcasting from Northwestern for the first time since 1995. So RedEye's Northwestern grads saw an opportunity to trash-talk the Buckeyes.



I was going to talk some serious smack here, but then I took pity. The Buckeyes have it hard enough—the poor things all have to live in Ohio.

Megan Crepeau
copy editor



So you're going for your 18th straight Big Ten win? You'll have to go through us first. I see your Urban Meyer and raise you one Pat Fitzgerald. I see your Braxton Miller and raise you one Kain Colter AND one Trevor Siemian. And I'll see you at Ryan Field on Saturday—I'll be the one in purple. O-HI-O? More like O-BYE-O.

Elise De Los Santos
copy editor



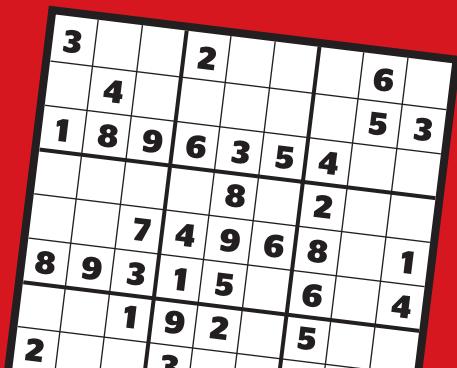
State school swagger and all, I don't fear the Buckeyes. You're named after a nut! A NUT. Those cookies, though, are delicious; even a Wildcat can see that.

Kate Bernot
nightlife reporter

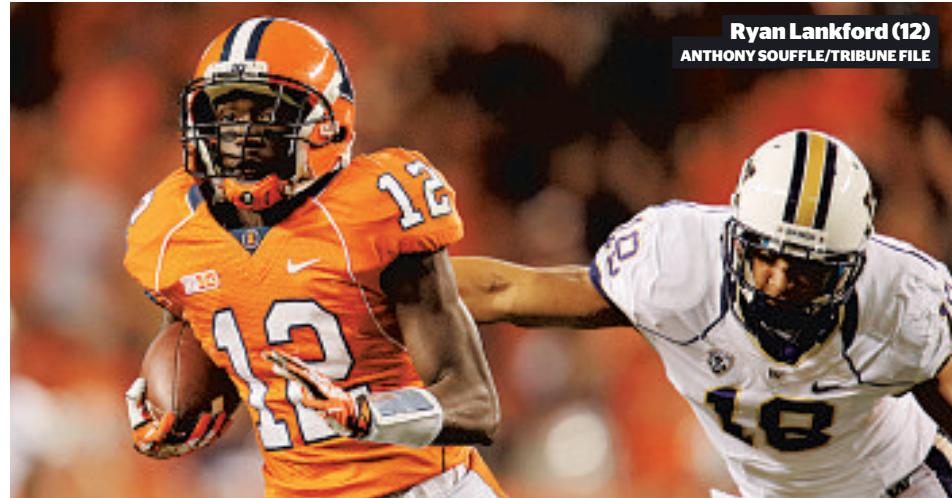


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sports



Ryan Lankford (12)
 ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE FILE

It's no trick: Illini are on the rebound

By Scott King

FOR REDEYE

Illinois football has had rough times in recent years, but things might be looking up. The Illini are 3-1 in 2013, including a victory over high-powered Cincinnati. Ryan Lankford is a key reason for the turnaround, with 236 yards receiving, 52 yards rushing and two touchdowns. RedEye caught up with the senior receiver to discuss why the team is improving, why he loves trick plays and the unusual method he uses to unwind.

What has the coaching staff done to turn around the culture of Illinois football?

I think the biggest thing is just being positive, letting us know that we are a good football team and the past is the past, "We're a group of guys that are here and want to see you guys succeed and want to see you guys make plays." I think that's the biggest thing, just being confident and letting us know that we can play with anybody in the country.

Why have the trick plays been working and what makes them so valuable?

Coach Cubit [offensive coordinator Bill Cubit] is an offensive mastermind, and we probably practice a trick play almost every day. He can just draw something up on the spot and really make it work. It makes our offense that much more fun because we know that he's not afraid to call a trick play.

Should college athletes get paid?

It's a tough situation. Because at first you want to say, "absolutely." As a college kid, anytime you can get extra money you want to say yes. As I sit back and think about it

BIG TEN OPENER
Illinois (3-1) at Nebraska (3-1)
 11 a.m. Saturday, ESPNU

[however], you really don't.

[The school is] paying for a lot. The little bit of extra money we do get from scholarships, that's all our responsibility to manage that and be responsible with it. It's a little bit of both. I don't know all the different factors; it's one of those tough situations. But if they were down to say we need to get money. I wouldn't say no, I'd accept it. [Laughs]

What's your favorite class?

Right now a pretty interesting class I'm taking is vegetable gardening in my senior year, just an hour booster class. I really didn't do much gardening growing up, or ever.

Is gardening a good way to relax away from football?

Oh yeah, a little bit. It's only an eight-week class. It's an interesting class, I'm actually learning stuff.

What's something people might not know about you?

I'm from Florida; I probably grew up 10 minutes from the beach. I'm one of the few guys on the football team that actually surfs.

Are you a good surfer?

I think I'm pretty good. Not the best, I don't get to do it as much, but I can stand up. That's the most important thing. [Laughs.]

SCOTT KING IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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Mike Walton II
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True Star
sports editor

1	What have we learned from the Blackhawks' 1-0 start?	Nothing will stop them from an undefeated season. Except a loss at some point.	That they will be 2-0 soon.	Brandon Bollig is on pace for 82 goals this season.	They're basically the Bears on ice. They're going to score a lot, but they're also going to give up a bunch.	We've learned that it is in fact possible to get TOO excited about a 1-0 start.
2	We have to wait three days between Blackhawks games. How are you coping?	It's tearing me apart!	I'm going to stare at my autographed team photo and sit near an ice box.	I'm going to need three days to recover after this game.	By watching one of the more important sports. Football. Playoff baseball. Maybe even some preseason basketball.	By watching D-Rose highlights while crying sweet tears of joy.
3	The Bears might be looking for a new punter. What does that mean?	They need a new person to work for 30 seconds each Sunday.	Means even the guy who just has to kick the ball has a difficult time doing it.	I don't know or care anymore, because hockey's back.	Better start stretching out my leg. Looks like I'm a try-out away from having my NFL dream come true.	Job opening for Tim Tebow!
4	Why did a Detroit executive call the Bears a "bunch of thugs"?	Because nothing's rougher than getting (essentially) blown out? No idea.	It was actually a shoutout to Bone Thugs-N-Harmony. Did you notice he tugged his earlobe too?	He would know.	That's like the pot calling the kettle black. Has he met Ndamukong Suh?	Ndamukong Suh threatened to stomp on his head if he didn't say it.
5	When Big Ten football begins conference play in earnest this weekend...	... I'll watch as much as when they were playing uneasily.	This college football stuff is all very foreign to me. I went to Bradley.	... I'll be going to the Blackhawks game. Did I mention hockey's back? Because it is.	Ha, Big Ten! Watching that is like watching SEC basketball. There's maybe two good teams and not much depth.	... Northwestern will shock the world and beat OSU just like Illinois did in '07. I'm callin' it.

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Fantasy Fix: Not too late to get a QB

FANTASY FIX
Dan Richman

» [redeyesports.tribune.com](#)
» [@danrichmanoff](#)

As Lovie Smith used to say, fantasy football players look at the season in quarters. Well, if after the first four games you still need a quarterback, I have the answer. Alex Smith, E.J. Manuel or Brian Hoyer will help your team; they have been solid and can be spectacular.

Alex Smith, Kansas City Chiefs

The Chiefs are 4-0 and Alex Smith is a big reason for the turnaround. Smith is fitting in perfectly with new coach Andy Reid's West Coast offense and this former No. 1 pick is much more than a game manager. The fantasy numbers are solid: seven touchdowns, just under 240 yards passing per game, just two interceptions and a completion percentage of more than 60 percent.

E.J. Manuel, Buffalo Bills

This rookie from Florida State may have been a surprise first-round pick in Buffalo, but Manuel is no longer a surprise for the upstart Bills. The numbers are respectable and I believe will get better: five touchdowns, three interceptions and averaging 214 yards through the air. Plus, in the past two weeks he has completed an impressive 67 percent of his throws. Keep in mind Manuel had knee surgery during the preseason, so the more in-game experience he gets, the better he



Brian Hoyer
GETTY IMAGES

will be. Manuel's upcoming schedule is tough (Cleveland, Cincinnati, Miami, New Orleans), but I believe he will continue to make strides.

Brian Hoyer, Cleveland Browns

Brian Hoyer is making the most of his opportunity in Cleveland. In two games as the starter, Hoyer is lighting it up: five touchdowns, three interceptions, an average of 295 yards passing and a completion percentage of 60 percent. Hoyer is a Kurt Warner-type gun-slinger who could help your team immediately.

REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR DAN RICHMAN HOSTED A FANTASY FOOTBALL SHOW ON 670-AM FOR YEARS.

THE DIGIT

2nd Derrick Rose may be No. 1 in Chicago, but he's second to LeBron James in global jersey sales for last season, according to numbers released Tuesday. Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant and Dwyane Wade rounded out the Top 5.



Derrick Rose
GETTY IMAGES

D-Rose means business

Lest you think Derrick Rose is holding something back after his knee injury, think again. "I'm a guy where whoever is on the court, I'm going to go at them," he said Wednesday after sitting out part of Monday's practice. "If it's my teammates—it could be my mom on the court, she's going to get killed. I could care less. For me, I'm just trying to build that mentality where I don't care who's out there, I'm trying to play the same way."

THE FINISH LINE

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eat&drink



1 Runa Japanese

2257 W. North Ave. 773-279-8887

Opened: Sept. 28

This BYOB Japanese restaurant and sushi bar quietly opened in the space formerly home to The Lazy Parrot and Yuca Cafe just a few blocks from the North-Damen-Milwaukee hub. The 48-seat spot, which also has a rear patio, offers traditional maki rolls and sashimi plus hot dishes including ribeye steak and grilled salmon. Take-out currently is available, with delivery debuting within a few weeks.

2 Chop Shop and 1st Ward

2033 W. North Ave.

773-537-4440

Opening: In the coming weeks, pending inspections

This butcher shop-meets-bar-meets-restaurant will need the full 15,000 square feet of its historic building to contain all the varied elements under its roof. Walking in from North Avenue, guests will see the deli case, which houses sausages, anti-pasti, meatballs, sandwiches and more alongside a selection of beer and wine. Snack at high-top tables or watch a game on the four TVs above the 27-seat bar, which pours 18 draft beers plus signature cocktails. For more substantial fare, take a seat at the bi-level restaurant, helmed by chef Joshua Marrelli (formerly

of Little Italy's Urban Union). Making use of the in-house butcher shop, Marrelli plans a menu of chops, steaks, burgers and seasonal dishes including grilled stone fruits and crab and watermelon salad. Attached to Chop Shop is 1st Ward, an events space, as well as a 60-seat patio suitable for chasing the last warm nights of fall.

3 5411 Empanadas

2045 W. North Ave.

Opening: February

This popular food truck, which also has a Streeterville storefront, expands with a second location near Chop Shop. Construction began on the storefront and commercial kitchen last week, but isn't expected to wrap up until February. Though the design and menu will be similar to the

Streeterville spot, the Wicker Park outpost will have a liquor license and plans to sell beer and wine.

4 Door No. 3

1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.

773-489-3160

Opening: Oct. 14

This speakeasy-style lounge below Double Door is, like its upstairs sibling, music-focused. Enter through the back alley and follow the sound of DJs or instrumentalists, who provide the beats while you sip cocktails or beer. Reaching back to the building's former identity as a clandestine bar and, at one point, a whorehouse, owners hope to channel a slightly furtive basement feel. Though the space has hosted some private events, it won't open to the public until mid-month.

NEW AND COMING SOON IN WICKER PARK

NORTH AVE

WESTERN AVE

1

2
3
5

5 Stan's Donuts

1560 N. Damen Ave.

Opening: Late November

Building permit delays have pushed back construction at the former Skewerz space tucked under the Damen Blue Line stop, where a Chicago outpost of longstanding L.A. shop Stan's Donuts hopes to open this winter. In partnership with local Labriola Baking Company, Stan's Donuts aims to be an old-school coffee and doughnut operation, upping the fried dough quotient directly across from the Glazed and Infused location that opened in spring of 2012.



WICKER SPARK

A NEW FLASH OF BARS AND RESTAURANTS
LIGHTS UP THE HEART OF WICKER PARK

By Kate Bernot | REDEYE

It's not uncommon at the intersection of North, Damen and Milwaukee avenues to pass leather-clad punks heading to a show, packs of ladies in five-inch heels spilling out of a bar and well-dressed couples on their way to date night. That's the magic—and mayhem—of Wicker Park, a nightlife-heavy neighborhood that's only upping the entertainment ante. The past month has seen three bar and restaurant openings, with more on the way from major players such as Rick Bayless and the team behind Big Star and The Violet Hour. Consult our guide and prepare for even more beer, booze, doughnuts and sushi. KBERNOT@TRIBUNE.COM | REDEYEATDRINK



6 Links Taproom

1559 N. Milwaukee Ave.

773-891-4306

Opening: Early November

It's all about the beer at this coming-soon bar located in the former Bin Wine Cafe space. Thirty-six draft lines—plus capacity for four cask ales—will pour mostly Chicago- and Midwest-area craft beer alongside a food menu of sausage-based sandwiches. Owners promise a few TVs, but they hope that all eyes (and taste buds) will be focused on the brews at this contemporary beer hall.

7 Dimo's Pizza Six Corners

1615 N. Damen Ave.

Opened: Mid-July

Wrigleyville's popular purveyor of wacky pizza slices—think s'mores, chicken parm or chicken and waffles—opened an outpost on Damen just north of North Avenue. In addition to a larger space, the major distinguishing factor of this location is a menu of beer and wine to pair with your choice of pie.

8 One Off Hospitality project

1543 N. Damen Ave.

When Italian deli and coffee bar Cipollina shuttered, the restaurant group behind Big Star, The Violet Hour and Publican jumped at the opportunity to lease the space next to Big Star. The taco spot plans to move its take-out window and some kitchen operations there, but there's no word on what One Off has planned for the rest of the space.

9 Rick Bayless project

1471 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The space formerly known as Salud Tequila Lounge has a high-profile new renter: Rick Bayless, the chef behind Frontera Grill, Xoco and Topolobampo. While his camp hasn't spilled the beans about what they plan for the restaurant, Ald. Joe Moreno's (1st) office confirms the new tenant.



10 The Revel Room

1566 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-278-1600

Opened: Late July

Mid-summer, the clubby Empire Liquors quietly morphed into The Revel Room, a modern version of a Chicago tavern. Shadows and turntables have been replaced by windows, leather booths and exposed brick. And though the attitude is relaxed, there's serious talent behind the menu. Ria Neri, the cicerone (beer sommelier) at Bangers & Lace, assembled a list of eight draft and numerous canned craft beers, while Ronnie Higgins, also of Bangers & Lace, designed the tight cocktail program that focuses on classics as well as creations like Gold Bullets and Vampires (gin, apricot liqueur, lime and cinnamon cider) and Vanisher (bourbon, cognac, cherry liqueur, vanilla bitters and vermouth).



OBSESSED

3 TREATS WE CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT

HILARY HIGGINS/
REDEYE FILE

Dark chocolate cherry flurry (\$4.50) at Burke's Bacon Bar

610 N. Rush St. 312-660-7200

Whether you order a sandwich here or not, do not miss the menu's sleeper hit: a whiskey-soaked cherry and chocolate blended concoction topped with crunchy chocolate shavings. If you love Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia ice cream as much as I do, just imagine it with the added hint of whiskey and an even creamier texture. After struggling a bit to suck this thick shake through a straw, I happily gave up and dove in with a spoon. —KATEBERNOT



Almond brittle (\$7) at Jeni's Ice Creams

3404 N. Southport Ave. 773-348-7139

When I took my first bite of brown-butter almond brittle ice cream at this new Lakeview ice cream parlor, I was in love. Unable to take home a pint of it—it surely would have melted by the time I finished running errands and got home—I did the next best thing, which was buy a bag of the same almond brittle that's blended into it. It's crunchy, sugary, nutty bliss in every bite. —LISA ARNETT

Traditional lobster roll (\$12.95) at Da Lobsta in the Chicago French Market

131 N. Clinton St. 312-207-5705

I didn't know I was capable of devouring \$13 worth of lobster in such a short period of time until I picked up this roll at the Chicago French Market satellite location of this Gold Coast sandwich shop (112 E. Cedar St. 312-929-2423). While some lobster rolls are filled entirely with lesser elbow meat, Da Lobsta shows it means business with a fine specimen of claw meat draped over the top. A bit of tarragon mayo and garlic butter enhanced but didn't overpower the fresh flavors. —LA

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Cheers, pop culture nerds

Chicago Tribune

Don Draper has his Old Fashioned, Carrie Bradshaw her Cosmo and Homer Simpson is partial to a cold Duff Beer, preferably on tap at Moe's.

Television often features alcohol in a supporting role, and store shelves and tap rooms of late have featured a bevy of spirits with TV tie-ins that seek to bottle—literally—the essence of their television inspiration.

Brewery Ommegang collaborated with HBO to create a series of brews inspired by "Game of Thrones." Their first offering, a citrusy blonde ale named Iron Throne, was inspired by Cersei Lannister, the show's fair-haired yet brutal royal matriarch. The beer is light and airy, much like Cersei, but its citrus nose and crisp bite is quick to remind that the drink, like the manicured yet merciless Lannister, is not to be taken lightly.

A partnership between online retailer Wines that Rock and Du-long Grands Vins de Bordeaux means fans of PBS' "Downton Abbey" soon can look for Bordeaux claret and blanc made from the same region that the World War I-era English upper-crust quaff on the show.

Being released in October, this vintage aims to please Carson, the butler who obsessively stocks the cellar on "Downton".

For Ted Rice, brewmaster at Marble Brewery in Albuquerque, N.M., his "Breaking Bad" beer is just a way to

TWO MORE TO TRY

Take the Black Stout: The newest limited offering from Ommegang's "Game of Thrones" series is a 7 percent ABV beer, brewed with base, caramel, chocolate and roasted barley malts. It's due for an October release.

Drew Curtis/Wil Wheaton/Greg Koch Stone Farking Wheaton wOOtstout:

This collaboration between Stone, **Fark.com** founder Drew Curtis and "Star Trek: Next Generation" star Wil Wheaton is a rich blend of coffee, nuts and velvety-smooth wheat aged in bourbon barrels that punches in at 13 percent ABV.



pay homage to a show that paid homage to him. Marble's beers were featured on the show, and Rice's home appeared briefly as a shooting location.

"Breaking Bad" has definitely been a part of our life through beer, our neighbors who work on it, our house. ... I wanted to say 'thank you' and tip my pint toward the show," Rice said.

His small-batch India black ale, Heisenberg's Dark, and India white ale, Walt's White Lie, were created with a nod to the duality of the show's main character, Walter White, an underachieving yet genius Albuquerque chemistry teacher who takes to cooking meth to afford cancer treatment.

Oh, and for those who always wondered just what Homer saw in Duff? Head down to Moe's Tavern at Universal Orlando's new "Simpsons"-themed park in Florida, where they're pouring Duff beer (and the "Flaming Moe").

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Jeff Perry on 'Scandal'

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THE BELTWAY
WITH JEFF PERRY**

'SCANDAL' SCOOP



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"Scandal" left fans in a frenzy at the end of its second season. (Spoilers ahead if you aren't caught up!)

Despite the finale's startling revelation—Rowan is Olivia Pope's father!—fans are hotly anticipating the Season 3 premiere that picks up 22 minutes after Olivia (Kerry Washington) stepped into Rowan's (Joe Morton) car to escape the media horde quizzing her about her affair with President Fitzgerald Grant (Tony Goldwyn).

Yes, someone leaked that tidbit to the press, and as a result, presidential Chief of Staff Cyrus Beene, still recovering from his heart attack, will forge some surprising new alliances this season to "kill that horrible, untrue, hideous allegation."

I talked with Highland Park native and Steppenwolf Theater co-founder Jeff Perry, who plays Cyrus on the Shonda Rhimes series, about what fans can expect when TV's buzziest show returns at 9 p.m. Thursday on ABC.

How's your heart doing?

I think it was what, maybe about one commercial break before Cyrus is fighting with the paramedics, having had some size of a heart attack and trying to get the oxygen mask off his face so that he can continue his work phone call. ... You'll find some of

the characters wanting Cyrus to try to remember that he had a heart attack.

He has these great murky motivations, and I was wondering if you could give any clues about what Cyrus will be up to this season.

One thing I could say is that Cyrus is mysteriously transported to a very ominous meeting in the trunk of a car somewhere in the first couple of episodes. I know that.

And I know that, as usual, it feels like political paramedics around there of responding to the latest threats and problems. And this is a big one. The first lady, Mellie (Bellamy Young), has already confirmed with the public, via a sit-down on TV with James (Dan Bucatinsky), that the president has been unfaithful. She didn't name any names, interestingly. And then at the very end of Season 2, someone or more than one person have leaked that they believe it's Olivia. "You are the mystery mistress."

And so we find Cyrus in league with Mellie to a certain extent and kind of uniquely in league with Harrison on Olivia's team, trying to find out the source of that leak and to kill that horrible, untrue, hideous allegation. And that's going to consume Cyrus for the first nine episodes.

Now, literally kill?

[Laughs.] Well, you know, metaphorically, literally—somewhere in there.



Is there anything that Cyrus won't do to keep Fitz in office and protect his friends?

We kind of have seen him in one crucible moment at the very tick of the 11th hour, not be able to go through with a hit on his husband to save the administration. Cyrus I think, whether it's accurate or a romanticism, feels like saving a really destructive period for the republic in general. So yeah, when push came to shove, husbandly love won out in that moment.

What can you tell about Cyrus and James in Season 3?

There's a growing fabric of actual honesty and trust. Maybe trust that I know [he] will try to lie [his] way out of something for days before I get at the truth. But knowledge of each other, and sort of a knowledge and the love and the trust just keeps deepening.

They're at odds with each other because James is a really good investigative journalist and he's been on the White House press corps. And now there's this burgeoning career as a TV talk show interviewer, Charlie Rose-type or something. And it's often at odds with what I need publicly; [James] is not ready to be a shill for the administration.

And so those kind of conflicts continue to happen. Can't tell you yet where we're [at in] baby land and Cyrus's aversion to fatherhood, which is thinly disguised, and James' absolute adoration to parenthood, that will continue to be a source of friction I think.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Jeff Perry's TV marriage is in a precarious place when "Scandal" returns Thursday, but the Highland Park native has to walk a fine line in his real-life marriage too.

In the ABC series, the Steppenwolf Theatre co-founder plays presidential chief of staff Cyrus Beene, whose marriage to White House reporter James Novack (Dan Bucatinsky) has pushed him to some scary moral quandaries.

"We kind of joke that on 'Scandal,' it's Valentine's Day when you call off a hit on your husband," he said. "That's romance."

Things aren't as life-or-death at home for Perry, who is married in real life to Linda Lowy, who serves as casting director on all of Shonda Rhimes' shows, including "Scandal." In her position, Lowy sees the outlines and scripts weeks before the stars, which required the couple to come up with a "pragmatic and ethical" pact, Perry said.

"We can't talk about it," he said of the plotlines. They each work in separate rooms in their house, he added. "And at different times there'll be shrieks from a different room as I'm working on the present script and Linda's working on the next one. And I'd run in and that say, 'What, what, what?' She said, 'I can't—nothing, nothing. It's just some casting I have to do. I can't tell you anyway. Go away!'

That was the case earlier in the series when Lowy knew long before Perry did that Cyrus is gay and married to James.

"Linda's going, 'Shonda's so funny. She gave a woman the name James. That's eccentric of her, and cute,'" Perry quoted her as saying, before she read further. "Yeah, that was the source of one of the shrieks, I would find out six to eight days later." c.w.

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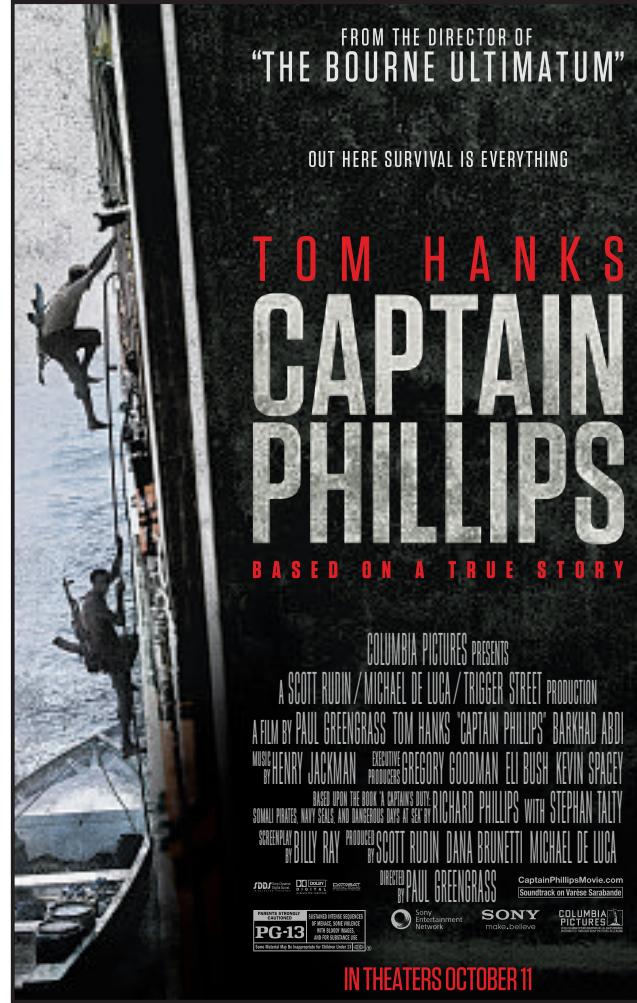
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David Arquette (left),
Emmanuelle Chriqui and
Emily Osment in 'Cleaners'

Busting out of the box

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Emmanuelle Chriqui and Emily Osment aren't just breaking out of the box in "Cleaners;" they're exploding the expectations of fans used to seeing them in "Entourage" or "Hannah Montana."

"It was beyond fun. It is what I've wanted to do for a very long time," Chriqui told me during a Sept. 25 call with reporters. "It was fun getting to kind of surprise people, because I think people think of me in a certain way."

In the action-adventure series, which debuts on Sony's Crackle website Thursday, Chriqui and Osment play assassins who are asked to do an errand for their boss (Gina Gershon), who then throws them under the bus when the women discover a sedated boy in the trunk of their car. They end up becoming targets of their boss' ruthless client, his henchman and the FBI agent (David Arquette) investigating the child's kidnapping.

"Cleaners," from writer-director Paul Leyden, is a fast-paced, bloody thrill ride that offered Chriqui the chance to play a badass babe. The actress did a lot of her own stunt work and some "pretty heavy-duty training," she said, but an injury prevented her from doing all the stunts she wanted to do. Still, Leyden said, she killed it.

"She ended up being way more than I ever expected," he said of his star, who also produced the series with Leyden, a longtime friend. "She was just unbelievable in it."

Both Leyden and Chriqui think fans will be even more surprised at Osment's performance. The veteran of children's shows "is so badass in this, it is out of control," Chriqui said.

Added Leyden: "I think both girls are really going to shock people. We haven't seen them play these types of roles. And it just fits like a glove on both of them. This show's a fun romp and the girls really embrace that tone. And they embrace the spirit of it—physically and performance-wise."

"Cleaners" is just one of several original projects announced in May by Crackle, which already is home to the Jerry Seinfeld series "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee." The Sony-owned Crackle last month showed its first feature-length movie, the martial arts flick "Extraction," and is working on a sequel to the David Spade comedy "Joe Dirt."

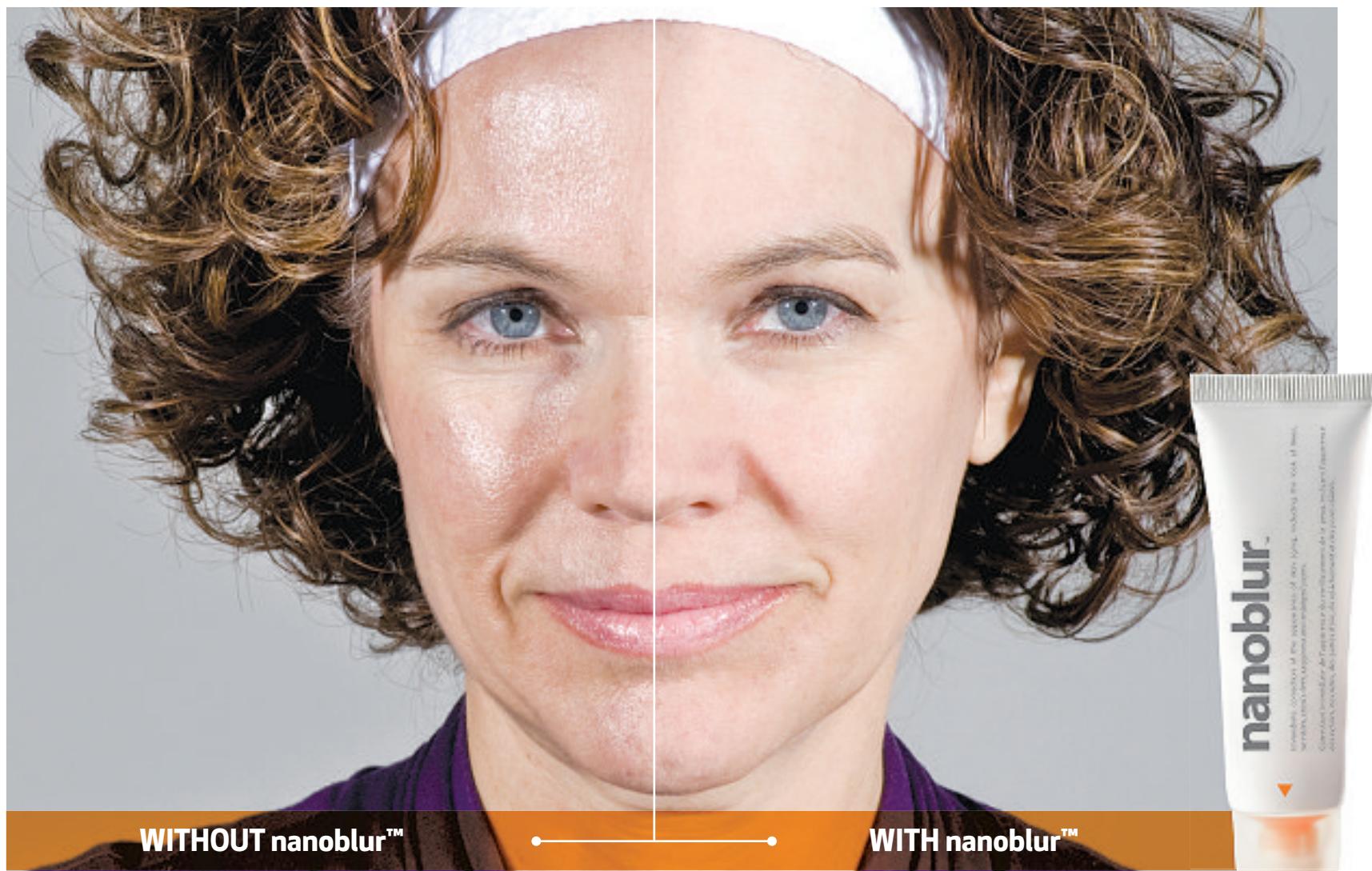
It's other upcoming series include the street performer doc "Play it Forward," the crime show "Strand Street" and the second seasons of action thrillers "The Bannen Way" and "Chosen."

While the Crackle "suits" gave him near-total creative freedom, Leyden said, he's also pleased to be releasing the show on the Web because he believes the online entertainment model "is the future."

"You can slave away on an independent film and people really like it and whatever, but there's limited space to show that and for people to actually watch it," he said. "This is an exciting content platform where you work on something, you get it made, you're proud of it, people are going to see it."

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Patton Oswalt is a hoot on 'Holler'

Los Angeles Times

Comedy writer and actor Patton Oswalt stars in "The Heart, She Holler," Adult Swim's surreal Southern Gothic series about the twisted and mercifully fictitious Heartshe clan, now in its second season of 11-minute episodes.

How would you describe "The Heart, She Holler" to someone who hasn't seen it?

Oh, boy. Imagine the most annoying hipster and what they think the Deep South must be. Then give them bath salts, have them describe the Deep South and have them write down and film whatever they say.

How did you get involved in this? Did you know the creators?

Yes, I'm a big fan of both the creators [Vernon Chatman and John Lee—the third is Alyson Levy]. They worked on "South Park" and worked on an amazing show for MTV called "Wonder Showzen" that I was a huge fan of. And then another show called "Xavier: Renegade Angel." So when they came to me with this show ... all they had was the family tree for the Heartshe clan. That's all it was. They said it was based on this book they liked called "Wisconsin Death Trip," which is also one of my favorite books, by Michael Lesy. And I was like, "That's all I need to hear. I'm in."

Did your character already exist or did they write it for you?

They wrote it for me. Their only conception was he's a guy who's been raised behind a bricked-up wall, like a Kasper Hauser character, who has absolutely no idea what the outside world is. Then I have to come out and run a town.

Do you always understand what's going on?

I never understand what's going on. We shot the whole thing out of sequence, so each scene is so completely out of context. For me, it's great because my character lives his whole life out of context, so it definitely helps the performance to have scenes follow one another that aren't necessarily chronological.

Are there any taboos?

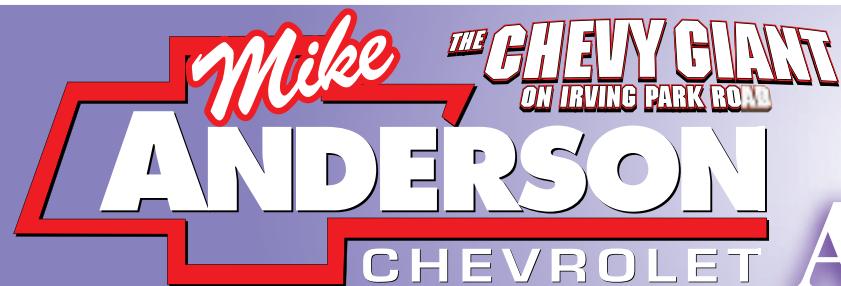
No, I certainly haven't seen any. We've only shown two episodes as I'm talking to you, and we've covered cannibalism and suicide, incest, racism, fratricide, infanticide, abortion. I can't think of anything we haven't touched, and that's only two out of the 14.

Do you have any sense of the reaction to "The Heart, She Holler" from the parts of the country it lampoons?

I haven't really gotten any feedback yet. It's weird how the people that you think are going to be offended by something are always the last people offended by it. It's the people that want to get offended for other people.

Do you think that combining comedy with horror kicks up the edginess to the next level?

That's nothing new. Look at Monty Python films. Look at the Grand Guignol stuff. Comedy and horror — you're going for the same reaction, which is shock and surprise. They've always been linked from the very beginning. It's the old Mel Brooks phrase, which is, "Tragedy is I cut my finger, and comedy is you fall into an open sewer and die."



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Fall's finest

Who's winning and losing the new TV season?

Los Angeles Times

The fall TV season is barely a week old, but all four major broadcast networks already have something to celebrate.

"Everybody has got a potential hit on their hands," said Kelly Kahl, a CBS senior executive vice president.

And the numbers look even better when delayed viewings, from people who record shows to watch later, are factored in.

Among the shows that opened big are the CBS comedy "The Crazy Ones" starring Robin Williams; NBC's drama "The Blacklist," about a traitor who starts working with the FBI; ABC's "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," an offshoot of the highly successful "Avengers" feature film; and Fox's "Sleepy Hollow," a quirky modern-day version of Washington Irving's tale of Ichabod Crane.

To be sure, the majority of new shows fail and one week does not a hit make. Already, one of the most-anticipated series—NBC's "The Michael J. Fox Show"—opened with disappointing ratings.

The comedy, which incorporates Fox's real-life struggles with Parkinson's disease into its plot, averaged just 7.5 million viewers in its debut Thursday. Jeff Bader, NBC's president of program planning, thought "The Michael J. Fox Show" would do better but acknowledged it wasn't helped by having the low-rated "Parks and Recreation" as a lead-in.

"We hoped it would be enough of a self-starter to get sampled," Bader said.

While "The Michael J. Fox Show" got little help from NBC, "The Crazy Ones" owes some of its big numbers to having a special one-hour block of the smash comedy "The Big Bang Theory" as a lead-in.

"At the end of the day, lead-ins still matter a heck of a lot," CBS' Kahl said.

This week, "The Crazy Ones" will have to stand on its own, as another new CBS comedy, "The Millers" starring Will Arnett, will be debuting just before it.

NBC wasn't the only network with a sitcom that didn't deliver enough laughs. Fox's "Dads," from "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane, also posted disappointing numbers in its first two airings.

The early hits and misses are not the only topic of conversation in the executive suites at the broadcast networks. More viewers are continuing to rely on digital videorecorders and video-on-demand versus watching live television.

CBS' Kahl said DVR playback—viewers recording shows and watching them later—is up 16 percent compared with a year ago.

For example, "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." added 3.7 million viewers in the three days after its Tuesday debut, an increase of 30 percent, when VOD and DVR viewers were included. "Blacklist" added 4.4 million over three days, for a lift of 35 percent. Fox's "Sleepy Hollow" also grew by 35 percent to 13.6 million.

"Live numbers are not the be-all and end-all," said Dan Harrison, Fox's executive vice president of strategic program planning. "I think in the future of television, you're going to see a show with a 100 percent lift."

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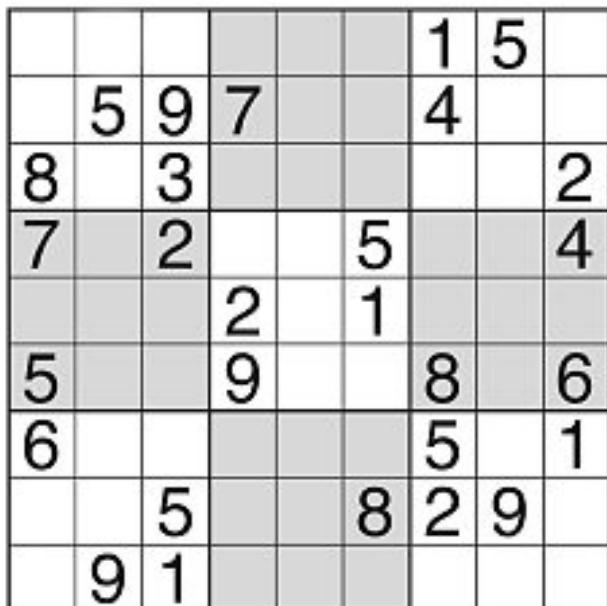
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 14 Lumberjacks' tools
 15 Sofa
 16 Sitting upon
 17 Ham or beef
 18 Clumsy
 19 Steak orderer's request
 20 Infuriates
 22 Summer fruits
 24 Debtor's note
 25 On the _ of; about to
 26 VP _ Agnew
 29 "Where _ I go wrong?"
 30 Grow _ age
 34 Skin opening
 35 Male child
 36 Provide auto policy coverage
 37 Neighbor of Canada: abbr.
 38 Priest's home
 40 Stinging insect
 41 Keep
 43 Astonishment
 44 Fill a suitcase
 45 Lock of hair
 46 Stone _ prehistoric time
 47 Narrow cuts
 48 Feel; perceive
 50 Enemy
 51 Accepts one's pension
 54 Violin player
 58 Lemony drinks
 59 Fencing sword
 61 Pierce
 62 In _ jokingly
 63 Bleacher levels
 64 Omelet maker's purchases
 65 Has _ in one's pants; is jittery
 66 Incline
 67 Ashy residue

DOWN

1 Sporting event
 2 Plow animals
 3 2013, for one
 4 Dancer Fred
 5 "Bye, Pierre!"
 6 Swim _; diver's flippers
 7 TV's " _ Got a Secret"
 8 Knocked

9 Go into
 10 Packages
 11 Provo's state
 12 Greater amount
 13 Ridicules
 21 Wet sticky stuff
 23 Great pain
 25 Antique; classic
 26 Gush forth
 27 Baffling question
 28 Very angry

29 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 31 Middle East sheikhdom
 32 Build; construct
 33 Has a stench

35 Boxer or McCain: abbr.
 36 Dublin's nation: abbr.
 38 Staircase piece
 39 Be obligated
 42 Lends a hand
 44 Vows of fidelity
 46 Attack

47 Layer of turf
 49 Homes in trees
 50 At _ originally
 51 Indian prince
 52 Biblical garden
 53 Examination
 54 Plant with fronds
 55 Company's symbol
 56 Therefore
 57 Nap
 60 Actress Arthur

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BLING

JUSTIN BIEBER

Many, many a large chain adorns the neck of this Canadian ruler. But if we're talking actual crowns, Bieber has one tattooed below his collarbone.

JOFFREY BARATHEON

Wears the crown of House Baratheon, meant to resemble a stag's horns. It's definitely suits his, shall we say, prickly personality, though we ALL KNOW IT DOESN'T REALLY BELONG TO HIM.

LIFE PHILOSOPHY

JUSTIN BIEBER

"I want my world to be fun. No parents, no rules, no nothing. Like, no one can stop me. No one can stop me." —Interview magazine

JOFFREY BARATHEON

"The king can do as he likes!"

USES FOR BODYGUARDS

JUSTIN BIEBER

Carrying him up the Great Wall of China, picking him up under the armpits to keep him from attacking paparazzi, possibly spoon-feeding him chicken soup when his tummy hurts.

JOFFREY BARATHEON

Carrying him through the streets inside a litter (one of those covered platform things carried by other people—we had to look up the name too), protecting him during a subsequent riot. Joffrey also loves belittling and badgering The Hound, who obviously likes Sansa and Arya Stark way more.

SEXUAL PROCLIVITIES

JUSTIN BIEBER

He dated Selena Gomez off and on for the past three years, who is waaaay too hot/smart for him. He's also been linked to Victoria's Secret model Barbara Palvin. And then there was that whole baby-daddy accusation thing back in 2011.

JOFFREY BARATHEON

He's only like 17, so he MAY not be ready to have sex yet. This doesn't explain why Joffrey so enjoys dismembering prostitutes—wait, it's because he's a sick little [bleep]. As of Season 3 of "GOT," he's engaged to Margaery Tyrell, who is waaaay too hot/smart for him, after dumping Sansa Stark off on his uncle.

APPEARANCE

JUSTIN BIEBER



JOFFREY BARATHEON



We rest our case.

LONG LIVE THE KING

Does Justin Bieber resemble a certain TV royal?

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

All hail ... Justin Bieber? The pop star reached new levels of princeliness this week when a Twitter account connected to his Believe tour tweeted a pic of him being carried up the Great Wall of China on the shoulders of two bodyguards. To be clear: Justin Bieber rode up the Great Wall of China with a buttcheek each on the shoulders of two giant men. Kind of reminds us of something another pop-culture brat would do: King Joffrey Baratheon of "Game of Thrones." In fact, these two may be more similar than we previously thought ...

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red hot



Daddy duty

In case you were worried, Channing Tatum has turned out to be a pretty cool dad. Wife Jenna Dewan-Tatum told Ellen DeGeneres that not only is the "Magic Mike" star a pro at diaper duty, he's also got a great way to soothe the crying Everly, 3 months. "The baby is crying and you're like, 'What do I do to make her stop crying?' and all of a sudden he starts beatboxing and she starts cooing," Jenna said. Yeah, we would too.

HOT DATE
June 26, 2015



That's when "Ted 2" will hit theaters, [thr.com](#) reports. We really, really hope it doesn't focus on Mila Kunis and Mark Wahlberg having a threesome with Ted.

'Parks' and trainwreck

We've known since July that Kristen Bell was coming to "Parks and Recreation" this season. Now we've gotten a glimpse of her Indiana beauty queen character, Ingrid de Forest, ahead of Thursday's episode. Eagleton rep Ingrid and Pawnee's Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler) face off at the Pawnee-Eagleton Tip-Off Classic, and raise the stakes in a bet to more than \$700,000. This can only end hilariously.

Nye, Nye, Nye

It was over almost before it started: Bill Nye has been booted from "Dancing With the Stars," [ew.com](#) reports. America's favorite science guy, who suffered a severe knee injury last week, was kicked off Monday night after his robot dance to Daft Punk's "Get Lucky" received the judges' lowest scores. Though we no longer have any reason to watch "DWTS," at least we got to see Bill Nye dance in a robot helmet to "Get Lucky."



THE QUOTE

I've gone both ways. I do as I please. I am too [bleep]ing curious to sit here and not try when I can. Men are intriguing. So are chicks."

—Michelle Rodriguez, to *Us Weekly*, on rumors she's a lesbian. Haven't we covered this already?

STARTED FROM THE TOP

Is anyone surprised by this outcome? Drake's "Nothing was the Same" hit the top of the Billboard 200 in its first week of release, selling 658,000 copies, [thr.com](#) reports. It's the second-biggest debut of the year behind Justin Timberlake's "20/20 Experience: Part 1," and the fourth week in a row that Billboard's Top 3 albums are new releases. Kings of Leon and Cher held the other two spots.



SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BRITNEY

What's the hottest job in Vegas? It just might be backup dancing for Britney Spears. Her manager, Larry Rudolph, told Billboard that 600 people tried out to appear in Britney's Planet Hollywood showcase, and the team will be cut to just 14 dancers. More choice deets: 21 of Brit-Brit's greatest hits and new music from her as-yet-untitled eighth studio album, due Dec. 3, will be featured in the show, and the concerts will also feature a four-piece band. And maybe a giant snake?



Britney Spears
GETTY IMAGES/FILE PHOTOS

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